

sanctuary was disassembled and rebuilt, new carpeting was laid, the church was rewired, pews were renovated, the church interior was repainted and handicapped access was made available.

In the latest restructuring in 2005, the Church of the Ascension now shares its pastor, Rev. Kakareka, with two other nearby parishes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the parishioners of the Church of the Ascension, both past and present, for their fortitude and devotion that has resulted in the continuous existence of a proud parish for the past century. It is the faith, integrity and dedication of people like those who belong to the Church of the Ascension that has contributed to making this Nation great. And we are thankful to them for that wonderful gift.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN BENSON

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Steven Benson of Owatonna, Minnesota on receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award was established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. The award recognizes teachers who are both role models for colleagues and encourage talented individuals to become and remain teachers. Outstanding math and science educators are nominated each year from the United States and four other jurisdictions. Teachers may be nominated by faculty, students, parents or members of the community. After advancing through an intense selection process at both state and national levels, the final winners are announced by the President of the United States.

Mr. Steven Benson has proven himself as a dedicated and outstanding educator. Mr. Benson believes in making his math classes more relevant to everyday life to generate greater interest in his students and encourage their success. By creating a personal connection to the content, Mr. Benson shows students how math significantly affects and influences their hobbies, activities, and future plans. For this commitment to his profession and to his students, Mr. Benson will receive The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching—the highest honor a teacher of mathematics or science can receive.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Steven Benson for receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Quality math teachers, like Mr. Benson, inspire our students' inquisitive nature to explore new challenges, innovative career paths, and the future of ideas. His steadfast professionalism and abilities in the classroom are a standard for which all educators should aim.

IN HONOR OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nation of Greece on its triumphant 185th anniversary of winning independence. Throughout its glorious history, Greece has proven to be an inspiration to the United States and to nations around the world.

The birthplace and cradle of democracy, Greece's long history of promoting the ideals of justice and freedom now serves as a standard against which we measure all other nations. The legacy of antiquity is still felt throughout the streets of Athens today. It was the ancient Greeks who first realized that the right of self-governance was an essential foundation of any civilized society. Although such principles seem elementary today, their ideas were revolutionary in their own time. We cannot discount the influence that ancient Greece has had on our Nation.

In the founding of our Nation, Greece served as a model by which the framers of the constitution structured our government. After helping to author our Constitution, Thomas Jefferson referred to Greece as "the light, which led us out of Gothic darkness." That same light, still shining from the distant memories of ancient Greece, guides our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the nation of Greece, on the 185th anniversary of their independence. Much like our own Fourth of July, Greek Independence Day is a time for people to come together and celebrate a shared vision. For the past six years, the organizers of the Greek Independence Day Committee have worked to create a wonderful community and family event that is enjoyed and shared by Clevelanders of all ethnic backgrounds. This year, it is important for all Americans to remember the history of independence and to remember where the roots of our Nation originate. It is a time to honor all people who join in the struggle for liberty and justice.

RECOGNIZING JOEL R. HERNDON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joel R. Herndon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joel R. Herndon for his accom-

plishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' HOCKEY PROGRAM

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the South St. Paul High School Girls' Hockey Program—the 2006 Minnesota State Class A Champions! With this win, South St. Paul finished the season 22–6–1.

In an exciting 3–2 overtime win, the Packers' won their fourth State title in five years. In fact, this year marks the Packers' eighth appearance at the State tournament, which is a record for the South St. Paul Girls' Hockey Program. I am confident that these young women will continue to reach for new challenges and break old records.

As an alumna of South St. Paul High School, it is exciting to see how far women's athletics has come. These young women played and won their championship on the same ice that the men's National Hockey League plays. Young women today have greatly benefited from the landmark legislation that, among other provisions, ensures equality in athletics for female athletes—Title IX. Because of Title IX young women today have more opportunities—to practice, to play, to win championships—than the women of earlier generations.

Over the past 30 years, many doors have opened for women and girls in this country, and we must continue to ensure that our sisters are offered equal athletic opportunities at all levels of their abilities. As the mother of a young woman who has participated in athletics, I am proud to see that this law has enabled more young women to participate in the athletic activities that young men have enjoyed for so many years.

Congratulations Packers! I join with the residents of South St. Paul in their celebration of your success and look forward to the celebration of future successes!

SINAI TEMPLE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize on the House floor that 2006 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Sinai Temple in Springfield, Massachusetts. I congratulate the members and leaders of the temple for the important role it plays in the Jewish community throughout the Springfield area. I hope the spiritual services and community cohesion the temple brings to its members will continue well into the future. I would like to insert into the RECORD a brief history of the Sinai Temple that honors its founders and leaders throughout the years.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SINAI TEMPLE

Sinai Temple began in 1931 when newlyweds Samuel and Helen Simons decided that

Springfield, Massachusetts needed an alternative to the Orthodox and Conservative synagogues in the area. The last major congregation to have been founded in the community was Temple Beth El, which came into being in 1910. Although Sam Simons had grown up in Springfield without a Reform presence, Helen had grown up in a large Reform congregation in West Hartford. She and Sam wanted to bring that kind of religious opportunity to Springfield.

Services began in individual homes. After that a home was purchased on Sumner Avenue and remodeled to serve as home for the growing congregation. During the beginning years of the congregation, Rabbis David Eichhorn, Judah Cohn, and Hershel Levin led the congregation. Then, with the arrival of Rabbi Herman Elliot Snyder in 1947, a building drive led to the purchase of land at what was then the "outskirts" of Springfield. Ground was broken for the building Sinai now occupies on August 15, 1949. The building at 1100 Dickinson Street was completed in 1950. Not too long after that, the other Jewish institutions of Springfield followed Sinai so that they are now familiar landmarks at the Dickinson Street/Converse Street intersection: The Jewish Community Center, Jewish Geriatric Services, Heritage Academy plus Temple Beth El and Congregation Bnai Jacob.

Rabbi Snyder's era, from 1947 to 1970, saw the congregation grow from 100 families to 450 families. With that growth came a Religious School, Hebrew and Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, a Cantor and choir, a well stocked library, and a commitment to community.

When Rabbi Snyder became Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Bernard Cohen guided the congregation through a year of transition. He was followed by Rabbi Stanley Davids (1971–1977), Rabbi Howard Kaplansky (1977–1983), and Rabbi Bernard Bloomstone (1983–1988). In 1979, Emily Sleeper Mekler came to the congregation as Cantor.

In 1988, Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro arrived in our community. Rabbi Shapiro brought enthusiasm, a can-do spirit, along with a heartfelt traditional way of embracing Judaism, tzedakah, Torah, and social action. Rabbi Shapiro has overseen the beautification of the Temple; the establishment of a second endowment fund; the enrichment of our Religious School and the expansion of our social action programming. The Rabbi is also devoted to Torah Study and offers a weekly Shabbat morning class. During the Rabbi's tenure at Sinai, many innovations have also taken place in the style of our worship.

Sinai Temple has also been blessed with excellent lay leadership, both male and female. Throughout the years, each president and his or her Board of Trustees have contributed much to the tenor and health of the Temple.

We hope you'll want to learn more about Sinai. Call us, please. We are eager to welcome you into our community.

TRIBUTE TO BURTON HOFFMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Burton Hoffman of Nevada, Missouri. Born on August 7, 1903, Mr. Hoffman celebrates his 103rd birthday this year.

Mr. Hoffman has lived a very full and productive life. He married his late wife in 1925

and remained devoted to her until her death in 1999. He was a long-time employee of Farm and Home Savings and Loan in Nevada, Missouri. Mr. Hoffman joined Osage Lodge 303 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in February 1934 and was raised to the level of Master Mason on April 20, 1934. He is also a member of the Elks lodge. In 2004, Mr. Hoffman was presented with a 70-year pin from the Missouri Grand Master, Stanley Thompson, and he was honored by the Elks in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Mr. Burton Hoffman all the best in the days to come.

ELAINE STOLTE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of individuals who make it their life's work to help our Nation's most vulnerable victims—our kids. One of the best is my dear friend, Elaine Stolte. I have known Elaine for what seems like forever. She was my District Court Coordinator for 17 years while I was a judge in Harris County, Texas. Throughout all of these years, I have watched Elaine crusade tirelessly for children who have been subjected to the worst circumstances of sexual abuse and help them to cope, recover, and prosecute the offenders. Due to Elaine's dedication to child victims, she was recently awarded the "Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy" by the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus on April 21, 2006. For this reason, Elaine is being recognized.

Elaine Stolte is the Executive Director of the Children's Assessment Center (CAC) in Houston, Texas. The Center was established in 1991 to protect and serve sexually abused children in a professional, compassionate, and coordinated manner. Elaine began serving as the Executive Director of the CAC in August of 2001, after previously serving for a year as the CAC's Assistant Director.

Elaine's primary duties require the management of the CAC, which is a collaboration of 35 partner agencies that include Federal, State, and city staff, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. She has worked vigorously with numerous criminal justice, medical, educational, and government practitioners in creating policy initiatives, and raising community awareness, on child sexual abuse. She has also been instrumental in training the practitioners of the role and necessity of the CAC.

Elaine has not only dedicated her professional time to victim advocacy, but is involved in many community programs as well. She has been a conference presenter for the National Children's Alliance, a graduate of the FBI's Citizen Academy, a member of the Federal Review Team for the Department of Family and Protective Services, is on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas—State Chapter, a mentor with the CAC Texas Mentor Program, the appointed commissioner for the Joint City/County Commission on Children, is on the Board of Directors for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is the CAC representative for the Harris County (TX) Chil-

dren's Protective Services, is an executive representative for the Harris County (TX) Youth and Family Services Division, a member of the Harris County (TX) Child Fatality Review Team, a member of the Child Abuse Task Force, an administrative chair of the CAC Partner Council, a member of the Child Sexual Abuse Review Team, a member of the Mayor's Victim's Memorial Committee, and a lifetime member of the Friends of the CAC. These are just a portion of the organizations privileged to have Elaine participate in; the list goes on and on.

On April 21, 2006, Elaine was awarded the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus' "Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy." The award honors the memory of Ed Stout; the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO, one of the Nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations, who died in 2005 following a 30+ year career of inspiring crime victims and those who serve them. The recipient of the award is a professional or volunteer whose effects directly benefit victims and survivors of crime. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime victim services in the areas of program development, public, or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community, and justice-based organizations that serve victims of crime.

Elaine's achievements with the CAC and in the community far surpass these qualifications. As Founder of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus, I had the honor of presenting her with this award. Elaine's innovation, determination, and compassion for the CAC, and for its child victims, are inspirations to us all and makes her one of the best child advocates in the Nation. I am truly blessed to consider her one of my dearest friends and to provide her the recognition she deserves.

That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL EDWARD ESHNAUR FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Edward Eshnaur, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Edward Eshnaur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.